

ARE YOU READY FOR WILDFIRES? KEY CLEANUP HAZARDS AND HOW TO STAY SAFE

Preparation for wildfire season means not only having the right safety procedures and equipment before a fire – but also for the cleanup afterwards.

Even after a fire has passed and the worksite has been cleared for re-entry, many dangers remain for workers involved in cleanup operations. To prepare, consider whether you have the right personal protective equipment (PPE) for these key hazards present after a wildfire.

HEAD IMPACT

Hazards: Falling objects or lateral impact in an unstable structure

PPE: Lightweight, comfortable hard hat with high-quality suspension



EYE INJURY

Hazards: Dust, soot and other airborne particles; impact from wind, sun, heat and humidity

PPE: Glasses or goggles with a sealed fit



AIRBORNE PARTICULATES

Hazards: Gases, toxic chemicals, fumes and particles that can remain after a fire is extinguished

PPE: Comfortable, well-fitting, NIOSH-approved respirator, ranging from disposable respirators, half or full-face masks, to higher levels of protection like PAPRs and SCBAs.



HEARING LOSS

Hazards: Noise from heavy equipment or power tools

PPE: Earplugs or earmuffs that block dangerous noise while allowing worker communication and situational awareness



HAND INJURY

Hazards: Cuts, lacerations and exposure to dangerous substances

PPE: Gloves that resist cuts and chemicals, without sacrificing comfort, dexterity, grip or breathability



GAS EXPOSURE

Hazards: Dangerous combustibles and toxic gases that can remain after a fire is extinguished

PPE: Portable gas detector that alerts worker to danger, with optional remote monitoring for added protection



FOOT INJURY OR SLIPPING

Hazards: Impact, crush or puncture from debris; slipping on surfaces that are rough, uneven, muddy or slick

PPE: Comfortable, durable boots with protective toe cap, steel midsole and ankle protection



FALLS FROM HEIGHT

Hazards: Ladders, roofs, towers, light poles or other elevated structures

PPE: Comfortable, durable fall harness or restraint belt, along with anchor point and connecting device for a complete system of personal fall protection equipment (PFPE)



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GET IN GEAR FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

To learn more and assess your PPE needs for disaster cleanup, please contact your SSI Sales representative or call 865.483.9332 or 800.229.7252.

Additional resources: For more guidance on worker safety during wildfire cleanup, please visit the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) or [OSHA](https://www.osha-slc.gov).